

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

AUG 10 2007

Appl. No. 10/506,489
Amdt. Dated August 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2007

Amendment to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A process for producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber which comprises extruding a film-forming solution comprising 12 to 35 wt.% polymetaphenylene isophthalamide, 4 to 10 wt.% polyvinylpyrrolidone, and 4 to 10 wt.% of an inorganic salt and a balance of an aprotic polar solvent through a concentric double annular spinning nozzle, while keeping the film-forming solution at 70°C or higher, thereby conducting dry-and-wet spinning, followed by a moisture retention treatment.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the polyvinylpyrrolidone has an average molecular weight of 20,000 to 100,000.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide

Appl. No. 10/506,489
Amdt. Dated August 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2007

porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic salt is calcium chloride or a mixture of calcium chloride and lithium chloride.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, wherein the resulting porous hollow fiber membrane obtained by the dry-and-wet spinning is subjected to heat treatment in water at 80°C or higher before the moisture retention treatment.

Claim 6 (original): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 5, wherein the heat treatment is carried out in water at 80°C to 121°C.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane produced by a process according to Claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 7, wherein the porous hollow fiber membrane is produced using the wet heat treatment under wet heat conditions at a temperature of 100°C and a humidity of 80% for 1,000 hours or more and has a strength at break of 10MPa or more and an elongation at break of 80% or more, with the elongation at break remaining at least 80% as high as before the

Appl. No. 10/506,489
Amdt. Dated August 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2007

wet heat treatment.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 7 which comprises a humidifying membrane.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 9 which comprises a humidifying membrane in polymer electrolyte fuel cell.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, 2, wherein the polyvinylpyrrolidone has an average molecular weight of 20,000 to 100,000.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A process of producing a polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 1, 2, wherein the inorganic salt is calcium chloride or a mixture of calcium chloride and lithium chloride.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane produced by a process according to Claim 5.

Appl. No. 10/506,489
Amdt. Dated August 10, 2007
Reply to Office Action of January 18, 2007

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 13, wherein the porous hollow fiber membrane is produced using ~~the~~ wet heat treatment under wet heat conditions at a temperature of 100°C and a humidity of 80% for 1,000 hours or more and has a strength at break of 10MPa or more and an elongation at break of 80% or more, with the elongation at break remaining at least 80% as high as before the wet heat treatment.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 13 which comprises a humidifying membrane.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A polymetaphenylene isophthalamide porous hollow fiber membrane according to Claim 15 which comprises a humidifying membrane in polymer electrolyte fuel cell.